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BOOK NOTES

A Discourse Upon Comedy, The Recruiting Officer, and The Beaux Stratagem, by George Farquhar, edited by Louis A. Strauss, is one of the latest of the excellent Belles-Lettres Series published by D. C. Heath & Company, under the general editorship of George P. Baker. This edition is a very complete and scholarly one, containing a brief biography,—unfortunately in rather fine print,—a critical introduction, variant readings at the foot of the page, notes at the back of the book, a bibliography, and a glossary. *Romeo and Juliet,* edited by Robert Adger Law, Adjunct Professor in the University of Texas, is the nineteenth volume of the Arden Shakespeare issued by D. C. Heath & Company, and is noteworthy in being the first of this series to be edited by an American scholar. In points of scholarship and literary criticism it bears comparison with any of the plays previously edited in this series.

Two excellent text-books in American literature have recently appeared, one by William J. Long (Ginn) and one by J. C. Metcalf (B. F. Johnson Publishing Company). Both books are characterized by clearness of presentation, attractiveness of style, literary taste and discrimination. Mr. Long seeks to develop his subject along the broadest possible lines, ignoring geographical divisions altogether; Mr. Metcalf, however, in the belief that the literary contribution of the South has not heretofore been sufficiently recognized and deserves wider recognition on account of its variety and peculiar quality, frankly accords to Southern writers fuller treatment than is to be found in other volumes of similar size on American literature. In an introduction to *Kentucky in American Letters,* 1784-1912, 2 vols., by John Wilson Townsend (The Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa), James Lane Allen declares that the history of American literature has not yet been written, and sets forth the opinion that he who would "draw from American literature the philosophy of its traits" must "go back to the will of the fathers in the foundation of the Republic and find the explanation of our literature at the basis of our whole civilization, ... in the entire nature of our institutions as derived and unfolded from the idea that we should be a nation of states." Whatever one may think of such a method, the fact remains that recently there has developed throughout the South a widespread movement to collect and preserve from oblivion every scrap of writing produced in the South from the time of its earliest settlement. One might have supposed that the field had been pretty well covered by the *Library of Southern Literature*, which flung out its drag-net into every corner and cove of the South, but here we have, in two large volumes of nearly four hundred pages each, a collection of almost every sort of writing produced in the state of Kentucky during a period of more than two hundred years. The editor confesses that he has had difficulty in deciding just what is to be classed as a Kentucky book, and concludes with delightful impartiality that "surely it is a book written by a Kentuckian upon any subject under the sun, and published in any clime; surely it is one written in Kentucky by a citizen of any other state or country, regardless of the subject or place of publication, for 'in general, I have regarded the birthplace of a piece of literature [as] more important than that of the author.'" When the reader bears in mind such broad principles of classification, he is not surprised to discover in the list of Kentucky writers such names as: Jefferson Davis; Robert M. Bird, who was born in Delaware, but "who must have been in this State [Kentucky] for several years prior to the publication of Nick of the Woods"; Stephen C. Foster, author of *My Old Kentucky Home*, about whom the editor writes, "It is surely a regrettable fact that the most famous Kentucky song was not written by a Kentucky hand. . . . . It is enough to know that it was written in Kentucky;" Nathaniel S. Shaler; Oscar W. Underwood; and Olive Tilford Dargan, who is included also by Professor George A. Wauchope in his volume of *Writers of South Carolina*. Thus the difficulty with the editor's classification is that instead of arousing sectional feeling between North and South, it will give rise to innumerable controversies among the separate Southern States, each claiming as its own some writer of note. But more insidious yet is the danger lest such a compilation of writers from one single State may give rise to a false standard of values and intensify that note of provincialism so common to criticism in America. The critic is apt to lose that fine quality of disinterestendness, which Arnold speaks of, and is prone to exalt home productions far about their true value. The volumes are handsomely printed and contain, nevertheless, considerable material which ought to be preserved and which will one day serve a useful purpose in the hands of that ideal historian of American literature whom James Lane Allen leads us to look for, and who, applying Mr. Allen's "solvent principle," may use the residuum to good advantage.

As a further aid to knowledge of Southern life and character, two handsomely illustrated books on the mountaineers will prove of value: *The Carolina Mountains*, by Margaret W. Morley (Houghton Mifflin) and *Our Southern Highlanders*, by Horace Kephart (Outing Publishing Campany). Miss Morley's book lays more emphasis on the romantic scenery of the North Carolina mountains and would serve as an excellent guide-book to the mountains of North Carolina. Mr. Kephart's book grew out of a sojourn of some years among the dwellers of the Great Smokies and tells many lively and interesting incidents of his experiences. He makes an attempt to study the mountaineer historically through his European ancestors and sociologically through a first-hand investigation of his present conditions of life; and he concludes that the great need of our mountaineers to-day is for trained leaders of their own. He advocates the establishment of model farms in every mountain country, showing how to get most out of mountain land. "Such object lessons would speedily work an economic revolution. It is an economic problem, fundamentally, that the mountaineer has to face."

Other books received for review, of which some will be noticed more fully in a subsequent issue, are: *The Rise of the American People*, by Roland Greene Usher (Century); *Advanced American History*, by S. E. Forman (Century); *The Letters of Richard Henry Lee*, edited by James C. Ballagh (Macmillan); *The Supreme Court and Unconstitutional Legislation*, by Blaine Free Moore (*Columbia University Studies in History, Economics, and Public Law*, Vol. LIV, No. 2); *The*

Last Will and Testament as a Form of Literature, by Eber Carle Perrow (Reprinted from the *Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters*, Vol. XVII, Part 1); *Songs and Poems*, by Martin Schütze (The Laurentian Publishers, Chicago); *Masters of the Wilderness*, by Charles Bert Reed, a study of the Hudson Bay Company and of other romantic episodes of exploration in the early days of our Republic.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Burr James Ramage, Ph.D., formerly dean of the Law Department of the University of the South, died suddenly at his desk in the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., March 23, 1914, and his body was brought to Sewanee for burial. Dr. Ramage was a native of South Carolina. He took his degree at Johns Hopkins, subsequently studied in Berlin, Hanover, and Heidelberg, and finally prepared for the bar at the Columbia University Law School. He practised his profession in Nashville and came to Sewanee in 1893 to organize and become the first dean of the law department. After retiring from the office of dean he held the chair of history and political science in the university and a professorship in the law department. Meanwhile he engaged in literary pursuits and was associated with the late Dr. John Bell Henneman in the editorship of the SEWANEE REVIEW. He left Sewanee in 1905 to accept a position in the U. S. Department of Labor and Commerce, and was placed by Secretary Garfield in charge of the Department of Corporations. In that capacity he rendered distinguished services in planning, developing, and perfecting the collection of material on transportation by waterways, and his published reports on that subject are a valuable contribution to economic literature. In November 1913 he was transferred to the Department of Justice as an assistant attorney. He was in the fifty-sixth year of his age.